

REMARKS

Foreign Priority:

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim to foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d), and for confirming that the certified copy of the priority document has been received at the Patent Office.

Election Restriction:

The Examiner has indicated that the newly added claims 14 and 15 have been withdrawn. The Examiner has argued that because these claims include both linear and annular ridges, which are interconnected, they are distinct from the originally presented claims. Thus, the Examiner has withdrawn these claims from further consideration.

Applicant has amended claim 14 to address the Examiner's concerns. Specifically, claim 14 no longer references "annular ridges." Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner rejoin and consider claims 14 and 15.

Allowable Subject Matter:

The Examiner has indicated that claims 4 and 6 have been allowed. However, the Examiner has also indicated that the allowability of claim 5 has been withdrawn.

Claim Rejections:

Claims 1-13 are all of the claims that have been examined in the present application, and currently claims 1-3, 5 and 7-13 stand rejected.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection - Claims 1-3, 5 and 7-13:

Claims 1-3, 5 and 7-13 continue to stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,290,615 to Ogg. In view of the following discussion, Applicant respectfully disagrees and traverses the above rejection.

As shown in Figures 1-6, Ogg discloses a golf ball having a number of ridges which project from the spherical surface of the ball. The ridges are used to create a number of hexagonal structures on the surface of the ball.

However, contrary to the present invention, the ridges on the Ogg golf ball all interconnect, forming a large integrally formed single ridge structure. Because of this disclosure, no one projection 40 is independent of any other projection 40, as they form a continuous lattice network of ridges. *See* Ogg, col. 5, lines 8-30.

In the present invention, the raised ridges each extend to define a plurality of independent non-circular shapes delimiting predetermined areas integrally formed on the spherical surface, and at least some of the raised ridges do not contact raised ridges of adjacent non-circular shapes. This is simply not shown or disclose in Ogg, as no one projection 40 is independent of any other projection 40, as they form a continuous lattice network of ridges. Because of this continuous lattice network the ridges on the ball are all interconnected with the ridges of adjacent non-circular shapes.

As such, Ogg fails to disclose each and every feature of the claimed invention, as set forth in at least claim 1.

With regard to claim 7 (which has now been written in independent form), Applicant continues to disagree with the Examiner's analysis. Specifically, the Examiner has again identified the area between the ridges on the surface as a "dimple." However, Applicant submits that the "dimples" referenced in claim 7 refer to indentations in the spherical surface (from which the ridges extend), and do not refer to areas created by the ridges. Thus, Ogg fails to disclose claim 7, as suggested by the Examiner.

However, to make this distinction clear, Applicant has amended claim 7 to make it clear that at least a portion of the dimples extend radially inward with respect to the spherical surface of the ball. This language provides a clear distinction between Ogg and the claimed golf ball.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that Ogg fails to disclose each and every element of the claimed invention. Therefore, Ogg fails to anticipate the claimed invention, as required under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Accordingly, Applicant hereby requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of the above claims.

Further, claims 14 and 15 are allowable, as Ogg fails to disclose each and every feature of at least claim 14. Specifically, Ogg fails to disclose a golf ball having a plurality of linear ridges connecting two annular ridges integrally formed on the spherical surface

Conclusion:

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Application Number 10/734,243

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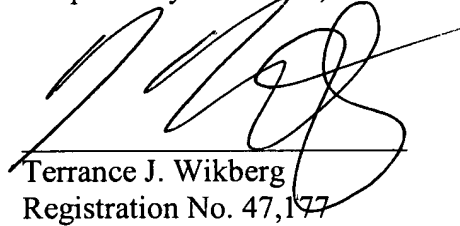
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